



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
July 17 - 22, 2010
ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL
300 BOURBON STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Monday, July 19, 2010

Welcome by Louisiana Boxing and Wrestling Commission – Commissioner Alvin Topham.

President's Welcome – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

Introduction of representatives of Member Commissions and Guests
Voter Authority Forms

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2009 Annual Meeting

Motion to accept minutes from 2009 ABC Conference made by Bernie Profato (OH) and seconded by Dick Cole (TX).
Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Buddy Embanato (LA)

Treasurer's report submitted by Treasurer Buddy Embanato for 2010 Fiscal Year (See attached report). Buddy explained that raising the current amount of the annuity by \$5000.00 would generate more interest and that money could be used to make registration fees cheaper. Motion made by Bill Colbert (UT) and was seconded by Alfred Grant (DC) to raise the annuity by \$5000.00. Motion passed.

President's Report – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

President Lueckenhoff reported on the activities of the ABC for the last year, noting that it had been a good year with no major issues and recapped the agenda for the meeting. He also requested that more commissions attend officials training seminars.

Verification of Registered Commissions:

See attached Voter Authority Forms (35)

Dennis O'Connell – Arizona Boxing and MMA Commission
Lydia Robertson – Arkansas Athletic Commission
Joey Miller – Citizen Potawatomi Nation Athletic Commission
Josef Mason – Colorado State Boxing Commission
Jill Peters – Comanche Nation Commission
Michael Kostrzewa – CT Dept of Public Safety / Boxing Regulation
Dr. Mel Jurado – Florida Athletic Commission
Andy Foster – Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission
Alan Taniguchi – Hawaii Boxing Commission
Ron Puccillo – Illinois Athletic Commission
Troye Blackmon – Kansas Athletic Commission
Todd Near – KY Boxing & Wrestling Authority
Buddy Embanato – Louisiana Athletic Commission
Patrick Pannella – Maryland Athletic Commission
Kenneth Reels – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Gaming Commission
Juan M. Vargas – Miccosukee Athletic Commission
Jim Erickson – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Jon Lewis – Mississippi Athletic Commission

Tim Lueckenhoff – Missouri Office of Athletics
Michael Mazzulli – Mohegan Tribe Athletic Unit
Brian Dunn – Nebraska Athletic Commission
Aaron M. Davis – New Jersey
Bernie Profato – Ohio Athletic Commission
Joe Miller – Oklahoma State Athletic Commission
Ernie Gallardo – Pascua Yaqui Tribe Boxing Commission
Greg Sirb – Pennsylvania Athletic Commission
Bill Colbert – Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission
Gerald L. Smith – Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission
Elliot Lazore – St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Department of Athletic Regulation
Michael Tyler – South Carolina Athletic Commission
Phillip Martinez – Southern Ute Boxing Commission
Dickie Cole – Texas Department of Licensing
Chad Kurle – Three Affiliated Tribes Commission of Athletic Regulation
Scottie Irving – Washington D.C. Boxing Commission
Jess Gonzalez – Wisconsin Boxing Commission

St. Regis Mohawks Athletic Commission for full membership – Elliot Lazore

Mike Mazulli (Mohegan Tribe Athletic Unit) presented a report on 3 events. The first event was September 2009, the second event was November 2009 and the third event was July 2010. There were 9 fights at each event and everything was handled professionally and due to the fact that the medicals were not in order on 2 of the 3 events, they made the decision to cancel the professional fights and only allow the amateurs. Mr. Elliot Lazore spoke on behalf of the St. Regis Mohawks Athletic Commission and emphasized the benefits of having a commission. The tribe did extensive research and adopted the rules and regulations of the Mohegan Tribe Athletic Commission. Dickie Cole (TX) made a motion the St. Regis Mohawks Athletic Commission is extended full membership. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Reels (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation). Motion passes unanimously.

Three Affiliated Tribes Commission of Athletic Regulation – Chad Kurle

Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Objibwe) presented a report on the three events that the Three Affiliated Tribes commission of Athletic Regulation had regulated over the past year. In February and April they regulated Mixed Martial Arts events and in July they regulated their first professional boxing event under the observation of the Illinois Athletic Commission. The Three Tribes had been active for the past 15 years with the North Dakota Athletic Commission in both mma and boxing. They were very familiar with the protocol and had adopted the rules and regulations of the N. Dakota Athletic Commission. Mr. Chad Kurle explained that they had a very good working relationship with North Dakota and were forming their own commission due to scheduling problems with the state (too many shows to support) and no animosity. Dickie Cole (TX) made a motion that the Three Affiliated Tribes Commission of Athletic Regulation be extended full membership. The motion was seconded by Josef Mason (CO). The motion passes unanimously.

Chickasaw Nation – Matthew Morgan

Matthew Morgan gave a brief description of the Chickasaw Nation Tribe of Oklahoma and asked they be considered for an associate membership. He explained that the tribal council passed a resolution to form their own commission to regulate combat sports and that Oklahoma State Athletic Commission commissioner Terry Smith was Chickasaw and was very helpful with the process. Jill Peters (Comanche Nation Commission) made a motion that the Chickasaw Nation be extended an associate membership. The motion was seconded by Aaron Davis (NJ). The motion passes unanimously.

Scoring Program Presentation – Doc Hamilton

Doc Hamilton gave a presentation on refining the current scoring system for mixed martial arts (please see handout). He presented what he called the ½ point system of scoring and described the different scoring criteria for the system. He stated that in the ½ point system more draws could happen therefore had a solution for resolving the draws. Todd Neal (KY) asked if there were any guidelines about effective damage and Doc Hamilton replied that the judge can only score what he can see, therefore effective damage is what is visible by cuts, bruises, swelling, etc. Then it was asked if any commission were currently using the system and it was answered that it was just now getting traction and California was looking it over. Jeff Mullin (TN) stated that he loved the ½ point system, but it required more training for the judges and right now it is hard enough to get a judge to 10 point round correctly. Josef Mason (CO) asked if it was only used in kickboxing and Doc Hamilton stated that it was used in boxing in England. Josef Mason (CO) then stated his concerns over the 4th judge concept. Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Objibwe) asked if the referee taking more of a role by calling near submissions would make it more like wrestling where the referee would wear colored armbands to indicate to the 4th judge how to score and Doc Hamilton replied that the referee would only call a near submission and not everything (takedowns, near takedowns, etc). Bernie Profato (OH) asked how many draws they actually have and instead of a 4th judge why not just have the ref pick the winner like in boxing years ago and Doc Hamilton replied that that was something to think about but in his experience when he was reffing, he was not thinking about who was winning the fight. Tim Lueckenhoff asked if there was any interest in forming a scoring committee to evaluate all the scoring

systems. Jeff Mullin (TN) will chair the committee and the members will be Aaron Davis (NJ), Joe Mason (CO), Todd Neal (KY), Dale Kliparchuk (River Cree), Terry Smith (OK), and Dr. Joseph Cooper, PhD.

MEDLIC, LLC, Medical Database – Jan Hubbard/Rebecca Johnson

Jan Hubbard just wanted to reintroduce the Medlic, LLC Company (they made presentation in 2009) and wanted to say thanks for the commission helping to perfect their database of medical records.

Fight Fax Record Keeper Report - Ani Miramontes

Ani Miramontes reported on the Fight Fax database and expressed concerns over fighters being allowed to fight with expired federal ID's. The federal law states that every fighter must have a federal ID and the commissions should consider the risk they are taking by not following the law. He wanted all commissions to remember the proper procedures when issuing the cards. He also stated that over the last 7 months, 42 fighters fought while under suspension and there is no excuse for that and suggested checking the day of the fight for suspensions just to make sure. Tim Lueckenhoff stated that in 2005 the ABC offered a 5 year contract to Fight Fax and asked whether to offer the same contract again or to open it up for bids for the 2011 convention. Dickie Cole (TX) made a motion to offer a 5 year contract to Fight Fax. The motion was seconded by Josef Mason (CO). The motion passed unanimously.

ABC MMA Database Committee Report - Profato (OH), Miller (OK), Davis (NJ), Kliparchuk (RC) and Lueckenhoff (MO)

Bernie Profato (OH) stated the mission of the committee was to set up a database for mixed martial arts to protect fighters and control mismatches. He also discussed the benefits of having promoters put the fights online, stating the database does work, it is cost efficient and suspensions are known immediately but all commissions must submit results. Aaron Davis (NJ) asked that the commissions stop being lazy and utilize the database, the sport is so new that we must use all information available. Dale Kliparchuk (RC) stated that the database is how we regulate mma. Joe Miller (OK) stated that absent of federal law, we must use the database so that we don't look back in 5 years and wish it would have been used. All members of the Committee made a plea for everyone paying for the service whether it is paid for by the commission or the promoter, this service MUST be paid for. The cost includes issuing ID's, results, all information available on each fighter.

MMA, LLC Record Keeper Report – Kirik Jenness

Kirik Jenness thanked the committee and gave a presentation on MMA, LLC. Chris Palmquist gave a presentation about the progress of the database, discussed the ideal process to use the database, and a performance review. He also discussed plans for improvements and stated they would be giving demonstrations in the lobby for anyone who would like to participate. It was discussed that the important thing at this point was turning results in no matter what format was used. There were many comments concerning getting the events paid for, some commissions cannot have promoter pay and some commissions it is not in their budget to pay.

Bernie Profato (OH) made a motion to close the forum and go into Closed Session Bill Colbert (UT) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

(see closed minutes)

Ron Puccillo (IL) made a motion to open the forum. The motion was seconded by Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Objibwe). Motion passes unanimously.

CAMO – J.T. Steele and Jeremy Lappen

Please see attached handout. The Commission for Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Organization gave a presentation about their organization. They are currently overseeing the sanctioning of amateur mixed martial arts in California and are hoping to create a national structure for amateur mixed martial arts including each participating state having a champion who would be allowed to fight for a national championship. Kenneth Reels (Mashantucket) stated that he viewed it as a conflict of interest regulate (license, issue id's etc.) and hold tournaments. Jeff Mullin (TN) asked if the results they turned in were considered sanctioned fights or non sanctioned fights. Chris Palmquist with MMA, LLC answered that only the results turned in by the California Athletic Commission would be listed as sanctioned. Bernie Profato (OH) said that regulators do not move from state to state and that CAMO was selling a product, not regulating.

Introduction of the 2011 Convention Site

Tim Lueckenhoff announced that the 2001 Convention would be held in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Court Hotel and the hotel rate \$119.00 would be given. July 30 and July 31, 2011 would be training days and the meetings would be August 1 through August 3, 2011. Some suggestions for the 2012 convention were Miami, FL; OKC, OK; Reno, NV; Biloxi, MS; and Arizona.

Boxing Training Committee Report - Greg Sirb (PA)

Please see attached handout. Greg Sirb (PA) stated that the committee decided that the same course outline would be used every training. In addition they decided that the exam would be left up to the state or tribal commission hosting the training as to whether they require it.

World Judges Report – Greg Sirb (PA)

Please see attached handout. The World Judges Report lists every round every judge has scored in title fights and the number of points they were off (professional boxing only). It is a very good reference. Bill Colbert (UT) asked if this would be done for mixed martial arts also. Greg replied that it could be done but it would take a lot of data. It would be a good idea though.

Discussion of Medical Release Forms – Pat Pannella (MD)

Please see the 2 attachments. Pat Pannella made presentation about uniform procedures for requesting and forwarding medical examinations and test results. Mixed martial arts were added to the professional boxers form and a release to be signed by the fighter before information is passed on to a promoter or matchmaker was also added. Pat asked that an email be sent between commissions requesting the information in order to keep outside parties from contacting other commissions. Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) made a motion to accept the ABC Uniform Procedures for requesting and forwarding medical examinations and test results. The motion was seconded by Aaron Davis (NJ). The motion passes.\

Recommended Medical Testing for Officials – Bernie Profato (OH)

Bernie Profato (OH) wanted all commissions to start having their officials do a medical history and a physical before each fight just like the fighters. Profato provided information about one of this referees who suffered a heart attack shortly after exiting he ring. Officials should be given physicals in order to know if there are any problems to be looking for and because it is a good idea with any physical activity.

Throwing in the Towel – Greg Sirb (PA)

There was an incident recently where a trainer informed the inspector in his corner that he wanted to stop the fight. Pennsylvania has since amended their rule to state that if the trainer wants the fight stopped; both the inspector and the trainer will mount the ring apron to stop the fight. He stated that if a towel is thrown in, the referee should call time and check to see if someone is on the ring apron and why. Dickie Cole (TX) stated that there is no "time out" in boxing, if a towel is thrown in – the referee should just kick it out. Bernie Profato (OH) stated that if a manager stops a fight it should be ruled a Technical Knockout and not a Disqualification. They did not do anything wrong, the fighter was hurt and they want the fight stopped. Pat Pannella pointed out that a doctor should not treat a fighter during the fight; he should only evaluate the fighter. Greg Sirb (PA) also went over a list of fighters that were on a "should watch" list because they didn't need to be allowed to fight anymore.

Amateur Boxing Sanctioning – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) wanted all commissions to have a heads up that Steve Fossum (IKA) has created an amateur boxing sanctioning.

California and Antonio Margarito – Nick Lembo (NJ)

Nick Lembo gave an update on the status of Antonio Margarito. Margarito was suspended in California and when his license expired the suspension expired. He was scheduled to fight in Texas and it was not breaking any laws to allow him to fight, but he was not allowed to fight until California made a decision on his eligibility to be licensed. Greg Sirb (PA) stated that although there has never been a rule, the commissions all stick together and everyone should defer licenses until California have a hearing to decide.

Mixed Martial Arts, LLC – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

MMA, LLC has asked to raise the fee from the reduced rate of \$50.00 (which was originally only supposed to be for one year) to \$100.00 which is what they originally asked for. Kenneth Reels (Mashantucket) made a motion to raise the fee for MMA, LLC to \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Aaron Davis (NJ). The motion passes.

Legal Aspects Of Drug Testing - Pat English, Esq.

Please see attached handout. Pat English gave a presentation on the Legal Aspects of Drug Testing and stressed that the most important aspect was to adopt a unified standard. He said that the World Anti Doping Agency updates every year and it is very good research.

Regional Titles –Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Objibwe)

The attached handout presented by Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Objibwe) list the rankings and the sanctioning fees for the Regional Titles. The membership was encouraged to require the federal disclosures for the sanctioning bodies and promoters. The membership was also advised in order for a sanctioning group to accept a sanction fee, they must

comply with the federal law.

Request – A – Test - Noel Perez

Ms. Perez was unable to attend but sent an informational packet which is attached.

Boxing Promoters Association - Joe Deguardia

Joe Deguardia gave a brief description of the Boxing Promoters Association saying they are a voice for the promoter. The mission statement of the group is to modernize boxing by having competitive fights, having a collective website for marketing. Pat Pannella asked if they had a boxer's pension and Mr. Deguardia stated that the first time he spoke in front of congress it was about a boxer's pension. At the time the bill did not pass, but if boxing thrives, he believes that a pension will happen. They also have a disciplinary process that includes an appeal process. They want to avoid anything that does not prove credible.

Maryland's Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury (CTBI) Study - Dr. Stiller

Please see attached study. Pat Pannella (MD) stated that they would love other commissions to participate in the study. The purpose of the study is not to stop people from fighting, it is let the fighter be aware if they have significant damage.

Effects and Use of CT Scan for contestants - Dr. Stiller

Dr. Jon Stiller gave a presentation on the affects and use of CT scan for contestants. Too many CT scans cause increased exposure to radiation which can cause tissue damage and even cancer. A person gets about 15 times more radiation from a CT scan than a chest scan. Theoretically, the increased risk is really slight, but there is no evidence that doing CT scans is beneficial. MRI is preferable over a CT scan and MRI will pick up non specific changes and a CT scan will not. Pat Pannella (MD) asked what it means to have an MRI with enhancement. It is a contrast and with a CT scan you cannot give it to anyone who is allergic to seafood and there is a risk for renal failure. There are no real dangers of doing an MRI with enhancements. It was also asked what Dr. Stiller's opinion was of tests for fighters over the age of 36. Dr. Stiller stated that there is not enough data to suggest doing an MRI is going to increase the safety of a fighter.

Boxing Hand Wrapping Demonstration – Jacob “Stitch” Duran

Duran wrapped Dick Cole's hand and explained the process. Greg Sirb also provided commentary.

New Commissioner Orientation (Erickson, Mille Lacs, Mazzulli Mohegan, Davis, NJ, Kostrzewa, CT)

WEDNESDAY JULY 21, 2010

MMA Training Committee Report – Nick Lembo (NJ)

Please see attached handout. Nick Lembo (NJ) gave a report by the MMA Training Committee which stated the courses are tools, they should be used to make better officials, not to make officials. The committee evaluated numerous courses and selected the approved courses based on the criteria that are listed on the ABC website. The list of approved courses is listed on the handout. Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) suggested the committee continue and said if anyone would like to participate to please sign up.

Muay Thai Unified Rules Committee – Lembo (NJ)

The Muay Thai Unified Rules Committee is presently drafting unified rules by gathering data, talking to experts, and analyzing existing examples of rules. The committee requested additional time and stated they would make a final presentation at the 2011 convention. Mike Mazulli (Mohegan) asked that the difference in mixed martial arts and muay thai in regards to judges and referees be included in the report.

MMA Regulation – Nick Lembo (NJ)

Nick Lembo pointed out that mma is growing rapidly and some states regulate professional but not amateur and that there is some amateurs fighting without regulation. Sanctioning bodies (even if listed as non profit) are there to make a profit and not for the protection of the amateurs. State commissions should take control of the amateurs. Andy Foster (GA) suggested that the ABC have unified rules for amateurs. Bill Colbert (UT) asked why the abc couldn't make a policy that stated if you fight on a non sanctioned show you can't be licensed for a period of time. Lembo responded that OK and OH have past rules like that in their individual state and emphasized that the important thing at this time is getting all states to regulate it. Bernie Profato (OH) stated that unified rules can't be in place until all state and tribal commissions are regulating amateurs. His state adopted the OK rule that states if a fighter fights on a non sanctioned show, they are not eligible to be licensed for a period of time. It puts pressure on the fighters to not fight for promoters that won't have a state or tribal commission regulate the event. Andy Foster (GA) made a motion to form a committee to draft unified rules for amateur fighters and present it at the 2011 convention. Pat Pannella (MD) seconded the motion with the note that New Jersey and Ohio rules should be utilized as models. It was too close to call verbally so the voters were individually asked. The motion passes with 24 yes, 4 no, and 2 abstain. The committee will consist of Andy Foster (GA)

Chair; Troye Blackmon (KS); Terry Smith (OK); Joe Mason (CO); Brian Dunn (NE); Dale Kliparchuk (RC); Jeff Mullin (TN); Dr. Joseph Estwanick (NC); Dr. Sheryl Wulkan (NJ) and Donald Graves, (Mille Lacs)

Injuries Consistent with MMA - Dr. Sheryl Wulkan

Dr. Wulkan gave a presentation on what the prefight medicals should be for both professional and amateur fighters. The prefight medicals should include: (1) Complete physical examination; (2) Fighters with missing body parts should be evaluated; (3) Neurological testing – MRI gives better information; (4) Blood testing; and (5) Eye examinations. Things to look for during a prefight physical are as follows: (1) Body piercings (2) Neck examinations (3) MRSA – have participant remove shirts, warm up pants, shoes, and socks; (4) Groomed fingernails and toenails; and (5) dehydration. Mark Ratner recommended that every amateur has a baseline MRI prior to turning professional so everyone can be proactive about concussion prevention. Aaron Davis (NJ) made a motion to create a medical committee for mixed martial arts and boxing. Andy Foster (GA) seconded the motion. The motions passes and Dr. Sheryl Wulkan will chair the committee.

Demonstration of Fouls and Submission defined in Unified Rules – John McCarthy

John McCarthy gave a demonstration of fouls and submissions as defined in the unified rules. Some points of interest included: if an eye gouge occurs during a punch, it is a legal act and the referee should not stop the action, and if a fighter turns his head and gets hit in the back of the head, the referee should not stop the fight, the fighter who received the blow caused the blow.

MMA Ally – Jason Neef

Jason Neef stated that lack of information makes it hard for regulators to make sure there are no mismatches in mma. He has a website where fighters can sign up (for a monthly fee) and put all of their training hours and monitor their training, everything can be tracked, and it gives the fighter exposure to agents, sponsors, and promoters. He passed out a brochure and card inviting people to visit his website.

Amateur Pankration League – Mario Mendez

Mario Mendez the vice president of the amateur pankration league explained the pankration league and warned against promoters saying they are having pankration tournaments to get around state and tribal commissions. The promoters claim it is pankration and it is actually amateur mma allowing children to participate. The Amateur Pankration League asks to be recognized as a separate entity and would like the rules reviewed by the ABC. Packets of the rules were received. Tim Lueckenhoff stated that it would be referred to the legal committee and that a report may be available at the 2011 meeting.

Ringside Doctor Update – Dr. Joseph Estwanick (NC)

Dr. Estwanick gave a Ringside Doctor update and announced the annual conference. The agenda for the conference is attached.

Gamache vs. The State of New York – Greg Sirb (PA)

Please see attached handout. Greg Sirb gave an update on the Gamache vs. The State of New York which concerns the Arturo Gatti / Joey Gamache fight. There was no monetary judgment made, but there may have been some liability with New York. He stressed that no commission should take weigh ins lightly, make sure your commission has weight guidelines and that they are followed. Pat English stated that commissions must ensure no mismatches, so the commission would have to decide if 9 pounds is a mismatch or not. He also said that the Gatti / Gamache fight might have been a mismatch, there was bad blood between a Gamache manager and a commission representative, and that Gatti was allowed to weigh in at the NY Athletic Club.

Re-placement of Mouthpiece – Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan)

If a mouthpiece falls out a fighter should go to the neutral corner, the inspector and trainer should go to the neutral corner and the trainer should wash the mouthpiece off and place it back in the fighter's mouth. The inspector should make sure there is no coaching or stalling allowed. Bernie Profato (OH) suggested that each fighter should have 2 mouthpieces. John McCarthy said that the best thing to do in mma is have the referee take the mouthpiece to be washed and then the referee takes the mouthpiece to the fighter in the neutral corner and have the fighter put it in himself.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM